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## **STATEMENT ON THE MEDICARE CONFERENCE AGREEMENT**

**Rick Pollack**  
**Executive Vice President, American Hospital Association**  
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The American Hospital Association supports the tentative House-Senate Medicare conference agreement. It provides a prescription drug benefit to the elderly and provides needed federal relief to hospitals, particularly rural hospitals.

The legislation includes important provisions that help patients by providing hospitals the resources necessary to continue caring for America's seniors. Provisions that allow America's teaching hospitals to continue training tomorrow's caregivers by restoring needed funding; that maintain and strengthen rural hospitals; that protect vital community services, from trauma to neonatal care, by placing restrictions on the development of specialty providers; that offer relief for hospitals that treat large numbers of Medicaid and uninsured patients through the Medicaid "disproportionate share hospital" (DSH) program; and more.

As our nation outgrows the systems in place to care for those we serve, it's essential that we move forward. This bill helps America take that step.

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